

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/693,285

Applicant(s)

PINTSOV, LEON A.

Examiner

Firmin Backer

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3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to March 17th, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-36.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1. ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 2/2/03
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Response to Request for Reconsideration

This is in response to a request for reconsideration file March 17th, 2005. Claims 16-36 are being reconsidered in this action.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 16-36 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. Applicant disclose an inventive concept that provides for the integration of electronic communication information, such as an e-mail address or a telephone, facsimile or pager number, of a first handling postal authority, into either a machine-readable format or direct printing of such information on the mailpiece. This allows the automatic creation and forwarding of service messages (such as delivery confirmation) to the first handling postal authority, which may then be communicated to the original mailer in a confidential and more efficient and expeditious manner. Applicant's inventive concept is novel and innovative in the sense that it provides a means for communicating performance of a value-added service to a first postal authority using a first postal authority address, wherein the first postal authority determines a mailer electronic address using a mailer identification code associated with the mailpiece and communicates performance of the value-added service to the mailer using the mailer electronic address. Applicant further provides method for obtaining a digital image of a signature of a

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recipient of the mail item as confirmation of delivery of the mail item, merging the digital images of the signature and the mail item, and transmitting the merged digital images to the initial handling post. Also parsing the transfer file to retrieve digital images of the mail item and a signature of a recipient confirming delivery of the mail item; and sending to the mailer confirmation of delivery of the mail item. The closest prior art Sansome teaches a postage metering system for storing first postal information including a fixed portion of a postage indicia, the postage indicia including a variable portion, storing second postal information including a plurality of portions, selectively providing one of the plurality of postal processing services for the sheet; and digitally printing on the sheet the first postal information and the variable portion of the postage indicia and each portion of the second postal information which corresponds to a different selected postal processing service. Sansome fail to teach communicating performance of a value-added service to a first postal authority using a first postal authority address, wherein the first postal authority determines a mailer electronic address using a mailer identification code associated with the mailpiece and communicates performance of the value-added service to the mailer using the mailer electronic address.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

b. Pickering, Jr. et al (*U.S. Patent No. 6,557,755*) teach an invention to provide novel methods and systems for controlling mailpiece processing and tracking that reduces the number of codes printed on a mailpiece.

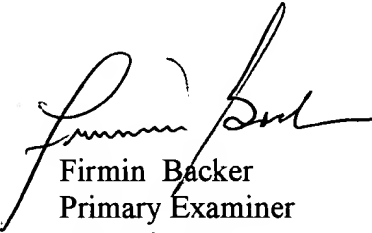
c. O'Callaghan et al (GB 2328306 A) teach a system for preparing items to be mailed comprising a data base for storing records of selected values of parameters for preparing the items, each of the records including an identification code means for marking each item or a component of each item with a selected value of the identification codes means for preparing the items to be mailed in accordance with the stored parameters, the preparing means including means for detecting and outputting the selected identification code values from the items or the components and, means responsive to the output identification code values for accessing the records stored in the data base which are associated with the output identification code values; and outputting the selected parameter values from the accessed records to the preparing means to control preparation of the items to be mailed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Firmin Backer
Primary Examiner
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March 28, 2005